Creation of National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)

474. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Budget 2007-08, about sixty five crores have been earmarked to set up National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA):

(b) whether it is also a fact that thirty five crores out of sixty five crores have been earmarked for rehabilitation of affected people from tiger reserves;

(c) whether it is also a fact that on the initiative of Prime Minister a Tiger Task Force (TTF) has been set up which is an expensive and costly agenda for Tiger Authority:

(d) if so, whether Government are considering to curtail some, plans before the TCA and TTF an jeopardized; and

(e) if so, the detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) During current financial year (2007-08) an allocation of Rs. 65.00 crores has been provided for protection and conservation of tiger under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, which includes Rs. 30.00 crores for relocation of villages from the core areas of tiger reserves.

(c) Based on the recommendations of the National Board for Wildlife under the Chairmanship of the/ Prime Minister, a Tiger Task Force was constituted to review the problems of tiger conservation in the country. The said Tiger Task Force had submitted its report with urgent recommendations, which have been accepted for implementation to strengthen tiger conservation, based on ground reality.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

Conversion of degraded forest land into green land

†475. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to change six million hectare degraded' forest land into green land;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the plan to implement this decision;

(c) whether any time limit has been set in this plan; and

(d) if so, the time limit set to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has mooted a draft strategy to step-up forestation and the greening of degraded forest lands, so as to achieve the goal of one-third forest or tree cover envisaged in the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.